

Before the first line on page 3, please insert a section head as follows:

C4 --DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS--

Please amend the first paragraph on page 3 as follows:

C5 In fig. 1, a lens checking apparatus 1 is illustrated. The lens checking apparatus comprises a transparent container 2, which is filled with a liquid. The liquid is preferably distilled water or physiological saline. In order to be examined, an ophthalmic lens to be checked, preferably a contact lens 3, is suitably placed in the container 2 using a pincette, the front face of the contact lens facing the bottom 4 of the container 2. The container 2 is preferably of concave shape, so that it acts like a lens when it is full. In addition, the container 2 is kept in a holder that can be displaced towards the optical axis 20. To illuminate the contact lens 3, a light-emitting diode (LED) 5 is provided, preferably an IR-diode 5 with a wavelength of $\lambda = 880$ nm. However, within the context of the invention, other diodes with other wavelengths may also be used. The light of the IR-diode 5 is reflected by a mirror 6 and directed to a condenser lens 7 which concentrates the light so that it penetrates the container 2 in a manner that is as homogeneous and parallel as possible. It is also possible to dispense with the light reflection using a mirror 6, but in this set-up of the diode 5 directly below the container 2 which is filled with liquid, there is a danger that when the container 2 is filled, drops of liquid might drop onto the diode 5. The illuminated contact lens 3 is processed by a CCD camera 8, which feeds the image of the contact lens 31 to a computer 9, where it can be seen by a monitor 10 and can be evaluated by means of a computer-aided image-processing system. The defects in question may be cavities, tears, inclusions, contamination, leakages from the edge and the like, which can be detected by an automatic image analysis system. Apart from these defects, the diameter of the contact lens can also be determined automatically using appropriate software. The images of different lenses may also be stored, so that statistical information about the appearance of various types of defects can be given.

In the claims:

Please amend claim 1 as follows: